

Nothing reminds me more clearly of the true nature of that honor than each time I look upon the brave men and women who wear the uniforms of America's armed forces.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of these young patriots. Other times I see their dedicated faces in newspaper photos back home to announce their achievements.

One such photo that I've viewed for the most tragic of reasons pictures Army Specialist Jonn Joseph Edmunds of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Jonn Edmunds was one of two Army Rangers killed on Friday, October 19, 2001, in the crash of a helicopter in Pakistan. Jonn and his fellow Ranger were the first American combat-related deaths of our necessary new war.

Look at this young man's portrait and you'll instantly recognize a fierce determination to be a good warrior, a good American, and a good citizen.

The military men and women defending this nation and its magnificent principles in and around Afghanistan have left their homes in little towns and big cities all across our country to serve us all.

Jonn's treasured home was Cheyenne, Wyoming. He belonged to the Future Business Leaders of America, was a Wyoming Boys State delegate, lettered in academics, and played soccer.

He graduated from East High School in 1999 and quickly joined the Army.

He became a Ranger five months later and was based in Fort Benning, Georgia as a member of the 75th Ranger regiment.

Jonn's promising future was accompanied by a sworn, sincere promise to serve . . . a promise this young man would never dream of breaking . . . a promise that led to this tragic loss.

In a paper written for a high school class a few short years ago, Jonn discussed his plans for a long-term Army career. He said, "I will be contributing to myself as well as for the defense of this country and for the betterment of the world."

No one should doubt that Jonn Edmunds was ready and willing to join the fight against terrorism and to help seek justice for the evils our nation has endured since the September 11 attacks.

His father Donn told reporters, "I'm extremely proud of my son. He was doing what he wanted to do."

I've called Jonn's family to express my grief at their loss. My prayers are with his father Donn and mother Mary, his brother Seth and sister Alyssa, Anne, his wife of less than a year, and his other family members and friends. I pray that the pain of their sorrows will be softened over time by sweet and loving memories.

Despite their terrible loss, Jonn's family has told us all that their support for President Bush and Operation Enduring Freedom remains strong. When I think of Jonn and his family, I am humbled. Every American should be.

And we all should be thankful for this gift of honor and dedication in the name of justice and freedom.

God bless Jonn, his family and friends, and his comrades in arms. And God bless America.

HONORING MARINE CPL.  
CHRISTOPHER T. CHANDLER

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine Cpl. Christopher Chandler—who is without a doubt one of America's finest soldiers who fought in Operation Enduring Freedom.

On Sunday, December 16th, our nation learned that Marine Cpl. Christopher Chandler—of the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division—lost his leg in a land mine explosion while guarding explosive-clearing teams at the Kandahar International airport in Afghanistan—his mission—to clear unexploded munitions and mines to help launch international humanitarian efforts and other military operations in the area. Injured with Cpl. Chandler were Sgt. Adrian Aranda and Lance Cpl. Nicholas Sovereign, who suffered serious shrapnel wounds in the explosion.

Chandler, a 21-year-old soldier from Aurora, Colorado, entered the Marine Corp. in June 1998, immediately after graduating from Gateway High School.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Cpl. Chandler, his parents Kenneth and Rumi, and sister Stephanie in the U.S. House of Representatives. Our nation is forever indebted to Cpl. Chandler for his self-sacrifice and admirable actions taken on Sunday, December 16, 2001—for they will be etched in the memory of America's new war against terrorism and never forgotten.

WARREN HIGH SCHOOL'S  
TRIUMPHANT SEASON

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, educating our young people is arguably as important as any issue we deal with not only in the halls of Congress, but also in our everyday lives as parents and as members of our respective communities. Each day, our children learn important lessons in the classroom that will prepare them for the days and years ahead, and we must make sure that they are given the tools they need to compete in the 21st Century.

In addition to work in the classroom, another important aspect of the school experience that can play a valuable role in the academic as well as social development of a young person is athletics, teaching the values of teamwork, leadership, dedication and perseverance. In that spirit, I would like to recognize and congratulate a high school football team in my congressional district that exemplified those qualities, the Warren High School Lumberjacks in Warren, Arkansas, who recently won their school's first AAA Boys High School State Football Championship.

The Lumberjacks captured the championship in a thrilling 45-39 victory over the defending state champion, punctuating a perfect 15 and 0 season. The game was highlighted

by a gifted performance by a young man named Reid McKinney, who earned honors as the game's most valuable player. McKinney displayed great talent and leadership exemplar of all his teammates on both sides of the ball, throwing three touchdowns and running for three more, including a fumble recovery for a touchdown that sealed the game.

Their impressive 26-year-old head coach, Bo Hembree, led and inspired his team to perform at a championship level throughout the season. With each game, these young men demonstrated amazing hard work, dedication, and character. I commend the entire team and the coaching staff both collectively and as individuals for a remarkable season, and I applaud Coach Hembree for instilling in his players the characteristics of leaders and champions that they will be able to draw from for the rest of their lives.

These students and their success are a tribute to their parents, their school, and the entire Warren community. Not only the coaches and players, but also the band, cheerleaders, students, teachers, and all those who supported this team can take pride in their role in bringing about this accomplishment. I congratulate Warren High School and the city of Warren as they celebrate this momentous achievement.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER  
WILLIAM EBBS

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Commander William Ebbs, who provided invaluable service to Congress on national security issues for two years as a congressional liaison in the Office of the Navy's Director of Budget, and who will soon be on the front lines of our nation's defense as commander of a submarine.

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, CDR Ebbs enlisted in the Navy in May 1976. He completed boot camp at the Naval Training Center, San Diego and attended Nuclear Power Training at the Naval Training Center, Orlando, Florida. At the completion of his qualification as a nuclear propulsion plant operator, he was assigned to USS *Von Steuben* SSBN 632, a Lafayette class fleet ballistic missile submarine. After four strategic patrols on *Von Steuben*, he was detailed in 1979 as a member of the ship's refueling/overhaul crew. It was during this time that CDR Ebbs applied for and was accepted to participate in the Navy Enlisted Commissioning Program. Under this program, CDR Ebbs attended Auburn University and graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

Commissioned an Ensign after attending Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, CDR Ebbs was designated a submarine officer and assigned to the USS *Key West* SSN 722, then the Navy's newest Los Angeles Class Fast Attack submarine. During this time, the Commander, Submarine Squadron Eight, recognized him as the "1989 Junior Officer of the Year."

After a tour in the Manpower division on the Staff of the Commander, Submarine Force, US Atlantic Fleet, he attended the Submarine